



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

**ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2005
July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005**

RHODE ISLAND
INDEPENDENT WOMAN



**Donald L. Carcieri
Governor**

**Jane M. Anthony
Chair, RICW**

FY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Department of Administration

One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor

Providence, R.I. 02908-5850

401-222-6105 401-222-5638 (FAX)



To: The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri, Governor of Rhode Island
Rhode Island State Senate
Rhode Island State House of Representatives

From: Jane M. Anthony, Chair
Rhode Island Commission on Women

Date: December 31, 2005

Re: FY 2005 Annual Report of the Rhode Island Commission on Women

The Rhode Island Commission on Women is pleased to present you with a copy of our Annual Report covering the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, in fulfillment of requirements under R.I.G.L. 42-119.

Attachment

FY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

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**Rhode Island Commission on Women
Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill – Second Floor
Providence, RI 02908-5850
Tel. (401) 222-6105 Fax (401) 222-5638**

FY 2005 Officers of RICW

Jane M. Anthony	Chairperson
Joyce J. Dolbec, MA	First Vice-Chair
Cynthia G. Wilson, Esquire	Second Vice-Chair
Helen P. Christy, MA MPA	Treasurer
Kathy Nadeau	Secretary

Commissioners 2005

Governor's Appointments

Jane M. Anthony, Chairperson

Joyce J. Dolbec, MA, First Vice-Chair

Jo Eva Gaines, M.Ed.

Carol Gibbons

Lela M. Morgan, MA

Linda H. Newton

Sarah H. Rockett, MA

Kathleen M. Spangler, JD

Jan Torres

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

Anna Tucker

Cynthia G. Wilson, Esq., Second Vice Chair

Staff of RICW

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., Director
Project Management and Administration

Commissioners 2005

Departmental Appointments

Helen P. Christy, MA, MPA, Treasurer
Purchasing, Management and Support
Department of Administration

Joanne M. Hill, MPA
Department of Corrections

Mary Anne Miller, RN MPH
Department of Health

Kathy Nadeau, Secretary
Department of MHRH

Neena Savage, JD
Department of Business Regulation

Adelita S. Orefice
Department of Labor and Training

Camille Vollaro, MA
Department of Labor and Training

Legislative Appointments

Representative Melvoid Benson

Senator Catherine Graziano

Representative Robert Watson

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor
Providence, R.I. 02908-5850
401-222-6105 401-222-5638 (FAX)



Dear Governor Carcieri and Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

It is my pleasure to forward the FY 2005 Annual Report on the Rhode Island Commission on Women in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-119-6. This report highlights the significant activities undertaken by the Commission in fulfilling its legislated purpose to advance women toward full equity in all areas of life. During this fiscal year, the Commission experienced continued success in developing and implementing numerous programs and projects consistent with our purpose.

The report provides a brief overview of the important achievements of its various Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. These committees are chaired by volunteer Commissioners and comprised of numerous other volunteers from the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. The RICW expresses its gratitude to those individuals who have contributed to the successful endeavors of the Commission through their invaluable donation of time and expertise as Committee members, and for their unwavering commitment to the women and girls of Rhode Island.

The Commission expresses our appreciation to Governor Carcieri, the honorable members of the General Assembly, and all other state departments for their continued cooperation and support of our efforts to enhance and improve the quality of individual and family life for all Rhode Island women.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Anthony
Chairperson

FY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

MISSION AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Mission: The mission of the Rhode Island Commission on Women (RICW) is to support women in achieving full equality in all areas of life, through the promotion of rights and opportunities for all women. RICW envisions a society where all women have achieved full equity in all aspects of life. The Commission:

- is a forum where all women can be heard;
- embraces the concept of full participation by all Rhode Island women;
- facilitates opportunities for education and advocacy, through collaborating and networking.

Statutory History: In 1970 the General Assembly established a nonpartisan organization entitled the Permanent Advisory Commission on Women in Rhode Island. After 22 years of status as an advisory commission, in 1992, the General Assembly amended the General Laws of Rhode Island (Title 42, Chapter 119) to restructure the membership of the Commission and to change its status from an advisory body to an agency of Rhode Island Government charged with the responsibilities enumerated below.

Agency Operations: RICW is a State agency established to improve opportunities for women and girls to achieve equity. The Commission studies and makes recommendations for improvements, including legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions and issues related to equal rights for women. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission works in cooperation with other governmental and private organizations to promote equity including – but not limited to – the following areas of concern: education, health, economic development, employment, legal rights, political participation and the quality of individual and family life.

The Commission consists of twenty-six members, including three each from the House and Senate, twelve public members appointed by the Governor, and eight members appointed by State agency directors. State agency participation may vary from year to year, depending upon the identification of priorities by the Commission. The Commission carries out its responsibilities through standing and ad hoc committees, the membership of which consists of appointed commissioners and numerous volunteers dedicated to the rights of women and girls.

Areas of Responsibility (R.I.G.L. 42-119-3):

- To advise and submit recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on issues relating to women;
- To gather and disseminate information to women and/or the general public on issues relating to women;
- To develop and/or support programs or services for women consistent with the purpose of the Commission;
- To collaborate with concerned organizations, groups and State departments on issues of common concern;
- To educate and encourage women to exercise the right to vote; encourage candidacy for public office and promote the appointment of qualified women to boards, commissions and government positions at all levels;
- To evaluate, monitor and propose federal and state legislation and advise legislators on issues relating to women;
- To advocate for women's equity in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

SUMMARY

OF

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2005

It is noteworthy for an organization of our small size to achieve success and to serve the women of Rhode Island on such a large scale. All of our Commissioners and Committee members work on a volunteer basis. RICW has one staff to facilitate all the work of the numerous RICW committees in the implementation of the important programs summarized below. With our many volunteers, we believe the RICW is one of the most cost-efficient agencies in the State.

Legislative:

Of the 11 bills supported by the Commission, 6 were signed into law. They are:

- **S. 0344/H. 5548:** Requires attorneys and court to take action to ensure a speedy trial to minimize the length of time the victim or witness must be involved in the proceedings. Court is required to consider adverse impact the delay or continuance will have on the well-being of the witness or victim.
- **S. 0345/H. 5849:** Prevents employers from secretly recording audio or video of employees in restrooms, locker rooms or changing rooms. It also subjects violating employers to damages awards, attorney's fees, costs and injunctive relief.
- **S. 0440/H. 5791:** Establishes the office of Elder Justice Advocate in the department of Attorney General. This office will prosecute cases relating to elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, as well as intervene in or request initiation of administrative actions related to elder justice issues by the state or any agency thereof as determined by the Attorney General.
- **S. 0474:** Requires local police to disclose to the general public, information regarding level 2 and 3 registered sex offenders as well as notification on the RI State Police website and the RI Unified Court System website.
- **S. 0916/H. 5813:** Would restrict the possession of firearms in cases of domestic violence pursuant to a protective order issued by a district court.
- **S. 0917/H. 5812:** Would allow Family Court to require a defendant to relinquish firearms pursuant to the issuance of a domestic protective order.
- Completed first edit of the *Legal Rights Guide for Women*.

Outreach:

- Presented information about the RI Commission on Women and the rights of women at 12 community and professional organizations
- Selected recipients for the 2005 Woman of the Year Event
- Participated in the following committees: Civil Rights Roundtable, Domestic Violence Task Force, Legislative Child Care Commission. Center for Women and Enterprise Advisory Committee, Office of Women's Health Advisory Committee.

Health:

- Completed *Access to Health Care* position paper
- Completed 6 outreach presentations about the RICW and Health Committee to health care providers, students and professionals.

Education:

- Selected recipients for the 2005 Freda H. Goldman Education Award.

Reports From Standing Committees

FY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL RIGHTS COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Cynthia G. Wilson, Esq.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Heidi Alexander

Joyce J. Dolbec, MA

Senator Catherine Graziano

Neena Savage, JD

Elizabeth Wilson Segovis, JD

EX-OFFICIO

Jane M. Anthony

Shanna Wells, M.Ed.

Purpose/Description

The Legislative and Legal Rights Committee is established for the purpose of advising and assisting the RICW on matters relating to the legal rights of women, to monitor and review existing and proposed legislation pertaining to women and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee/Full Commission on these issues.

In addition, the Legislative and Legal Rights Committee completed the first edit of the *Legal Rights Handbook for RI Women*.

Accomplishments during FY 2005:

- 1.) The Committee provided information helpful in the development of testimony and support letters for legislation on which the Commission took a position. The Commission supported legislation in the following areas:
 - **S. 0344/H. 5548:** Requires attorneys and court to take action to ensure a speedy trial to minimize the length of time the victim or witness must be involved in the proceedings. Court is required to consider adverse impact the delay or continuance will have on the well being of the witness or victim. (Became law on June 30, 2005)
 - **S. 0345/H. 5849:** Prevents employers from secretly recording audio or video of employees in restrooms, locker rooms or changing rooms. It also subjects violating employers to damages awards, attorney's fees, costs and injunctive relief. (Became law on July 1, 2005)
 - **S. 0440/H. 5791:** Establishes the office of Elder Justice Advocate in the department of Attorney General. This office will prosecute cases relating to elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, as well as intervene in or request initiation of administrative actions related to elder justice issues by the state or any agency thereof as determined by the Attorney General. (Became law on July 19, 2005)
 - **S. 0474:** Requires local police to disclose to the general public, information regarding level 2 and 3 registered sex offenders as well as notification on the RI State Police website and the RI Unified Court System website. (Became law on June 24, 2005)
 - **S. 0916/H. 5813:** Would restrict the possession of firearms in cases of domestic violence pursuant to a protective order issued by a district court. (Became law on July 1, 2005)

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- **S. 0917/H. 5812:** Would allow Family Court to require a defendant to relinquish firearms pursuant to the issuance of a domestic protective order. (Became law on July 1, 2005)

A) In FY 2003, the committee developed a Legislative Agenda Letter to request other organizations' legislative priorities. The letter was again sent to organizations in FY 2005 (a list follows):

- 1) 100 Black Women
- 2) 2 to 1 Coalition
- 3) American Association of University Women
- 4) Big Sisters of RI
- 5) Business and Professional Women of RI
- 6) Brown University / Pembroke Center for Women
- 7) Brown University / Sarah Doyle Women's Center
- 8) Bryant College / Women's Studies Program and Women's Center
- 9) CCRI-Providence / GEENA Project
- 10) Center for Women and Enterprise
- 11) Girl's Coalition of RI
- 12) J&W University / Women's Concern Center
- 13) League of Women Voters of RI
- 14) National Association of Women in Construction
- 15) Office of Women's Health, RI Department of Health
- 16) Portuguese American Women's Association
- 17) Providence College / Women's Center
- 18) RIC / Women's Studies
- 19) RIC / Women's Center
- 20) RI Alliance for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights
- 21) RI Association of Affirmative Action Professionals
- 22) RI Black Women's Health Project
- 23) RI Breast Cancer Coalition
- 24) RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- 25) RI Coalition for Affirmative Action
- 26) RI National Organization for Women
- 27) Roger Williams University / Women's Center
- 28) Salve Regina University / Women's Studies
- 29) Salve Regina University / Advisory Women's Group
- 30) Sexual Assault and Trauma Resource Center
- 31) URI / Commission on the Status of Women
- 32) URI / Women's Center
- 33) URI / Women's Studies
- 34) Women in Transition
- 35) Women to Women Support Network
- 36) Women's Law Center of RI
- 37) Women's Development Corporation
- 38) Women's Fund of RI / RI Foundation
- 39) YWCA of Greater RI
- 40) YWCA of Northern RI

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B) Priority areas related to women's issues were recommended to be:

- Economic Independence
- Health
- Discrimination
- Domestic Violence
- Education

C) A series of screening criteria to help select bills under review were recommended for Continued use.

- Does the bill benefit women?
- Does the bill fall within one of our priority areas?
- Which bills will have a positive or negative impact on the greatest number of women – OR the greatest benefit or detriment to a subgroup?
- Is it likely this bill can pass this year or in the near future?
- Are other organizations promoting this bill?
- Is there a potential to build or join a coalition to help pass it?

D) Because of a concern regarding the projected budget deficit, the Committee reasoned that bills with no financial impact to the State Budget would have a better chance of passage in 2005 than those which required appropriations. Therefore, given the resources of the Commission, the Committee worked this reasoning into its analysis, when assessing the likelihood of passage.

2. The Committee continued the process of updating the Legal Rights Handbook through the use of interns for updating the resource list. The Committee determined the most efficient manner to update the Handbook was by contacting prior Chapter Chairs and/or participants. This occurred in FY 2005. Two chapters are left to be reviewed, and 11 chapters have been reviewed and edited.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Mary Anne Miller, RN, MPH, CHES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, FY 2004

Ann Ganung, RN, BSN, MBA

Senator Catherine Graziano, RN, PhD

Sharon Marable, MD, MPH

Mary Anne Miller, RN, MPH

Carrie Bridges MPH

Nancy Libby-Fisher

Ellen Mauro RN, MPH

Marie Strauss

Rob Trachtenberg MS

EX-OFFICIO

Jane M. Anthony

Joyce Dolbec

Shanna Wells MEd

Purpose/Description

The mission of the Health Committee of the RICW is to enhance the health and improve the quality of life of women and girls in the state of Rhode Island. In support of this mission, the Health Committee regularly participates in educational and research activities and outreach efforts. Committee members meet monthly to discuss common issues of interest, plan collaborative initiatives, and present the latest information on women's health. The Health Committee also advises and assists the RICW on all health-related matters pertaining to women, including legislative initiatives related to health.

Accomplishments during FY 2005

The Health Committee continues to collaborate and develop women's health position papers. A lead author and/or subgroup of members in consultation with content experts write each paper. The papers present state-of-the-art information and research related to the health topic and draw out policy implications. Each paper is reviewed and approved by the Health Committee, the Executive Committee, and then by the full Commission. Currently there are two position papers in progress: The Chair and committee members provided feedback on women's health-related bills being proposed during the legislative session.

In June of 2005 the RICW and most notable the Health Committee provided leadership and expertise for the annual Women's Cancer Screening Breakfast. Collaboration with the RICW Legislative committee to explore gaps in health policy papers is on going.

Completed *Access to Health Care* position paper

Completed 6 outreach presentations about the RICW and Health Committee to health care providers, students and professionals.

Participated in the annual presentation of grant awards with the Center of Excellence and Brown University.

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Coordination of activities regarding women in prison, sponsored training opportunity with the transitional housing program located at the ACI.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Linda H. Newton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, FY 2005

Jane M. Anthony

Joyce Dolbec

Joanne Hill

Mary Anne Miller

Kathy Nadeau

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

Camille Vollaro

EX-OFFICIO

Shanna Wells, M.Ed.

Purpose/Description

The purpose of the Community Outreach Committee is to support and promote the RI Commission on Women using public forums, special events and other networking opportunities that acknowledge and encourage the accomplishments of women and girls in Rhode Island. In addition, the committee helps provide opportunities for Rhode Island women to express their needs and concerns and makes recommendations to the Full Commission regarding these matters.

Accomplishments during FY 2005

1. RICW Website. We continue to update and enhance the RICW website on an ongoing basis. There has been an increase in the number of hits to the website during this time period.
2. Public Relations Activities – The RICW has participated in numerous speaking engagements and other public forums including:
 - July 14, 2004 – Meeting with the Visiting Nurses Association
 - September 17, 2004 – Presentation to URI Nursing Students
 - September 22, 2004 – Presentation at Health Conference
 - October 7, 2004 – Woman of the Year Event (recipients Fox and Benoit)
 - October 22, 2004 – Presentation at Health Conference
 - November 1, 2004 – Speaking Engagement at YWCA
 - January 20, 2005 – Meeting with US Department of Labor Women’s Bureau
 - March 7, 2005 – Meeting with Nurse Practitioners
 - May 12, 2005 – Radio Program “Minority Monitor”
 - June 27, 2005 – Cancer Screening Breakfast
3. Press Releases and Media Responses: This committee provides support to all committees in preparing media responses and press releases related to RICW programs and projects.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Lela Morgan, MA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, FY 2005

Linda Bienvenida
Nancy Burrell
Jean M. Campbell, MBA
Catharine A. Fisher, PhD
Donna Fishman
Alison George
Louise Giannini
Roxanne Gomes
Jose M. Gonzalez, EdD

Terri Hassler, PhD
Sharon Hoffman, MSW
Doreen Lasiewski, EdD
Virginia O'Hayer
Migonne Pollard, EdD
Rena Ries
Cynthia Shawn
Nancy Sullivan, EdD
Nancy Warren
Deborah Watson

EX-OFFICIO

Jane M. Anthony

Purpose/Description

The mission of the Education Committee is to advise and assist the RICW on all education related issues pertaining to women. In past years, the Education Committee worked collaboratively to create a *Gender Equity Handbook*. The project was a collaborative effort among the RICW, the Educators' Colloquium for Gender Equity and the Rhode Island College Feinstein School of Education, with support from the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Developed for classroom teachers by classroom teachers and educators, the resource was released to the public in June 1999. The Handbook consists of time-saving, uniform lesson plans in a loose leaf binder format, so it can easily be updated and so teachers may easily copy and use lessons appropriate to their grade level and content area. It also contains information on gender issues in education and print and on-line resources. Copies were disseminated to Rhode Island schools and school districts in FY 2001.

Subsequent goals of the Education Committee in FY 2004 became to facilitate equity in the schools through:

- Development of a computerized Online version of the Handbook;
- Workshops to facilitate the use of the Handbook by teachers and schools;
- Expanding the work of the Education Committee from gender equity to address issues of racism and social justice as well as sexism.

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Accomplishments during FY 2005

- Public presentations on *Cultural Pluralism Project*:

Cultural Pluralism Partnership / Steering Committee Members

Note: This is not a complete list. Several other potential members are being contacted.

Rebecca Flores Amado	Heritage Harbor	Community
Thomas Gaines	Johnson & Wales University & Statewide Multicultural Committee	Higher Education
Alison George	Met School	Schools
Sharon Hoffman	CCRI – Providence	Higher Education
Doreen Lasiewski	New England Tech	Higher Education
Kesha Moore	Bryant College	Higher Education
Kat Quina / (alt) Steve Grubman-Black	URI	High Education
Sister Mary Reilly	Sophia Academy	Schools
Cindy St. Jacques	YWCA-NRI	Community
Kathryn Tomasek	Wheaton College & SNECORE	Higher Education
Judy Wills	South Providence Dev’p Corporation	Community

Support / Ex-Officio

Lela Morgan	RICW Commissioner / Chair, Education Committee /CCRI Lincoln
Terri Hasseler	Project Coordinator / Bryant College

<p align="center">CULTURAL PLURALISM PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE</p> <p>*Past Agreements *6 Steering Committee Goals *4 Subcommittees & Consultants *Vision & Mission *Next Steps</p>	<p align="center">PAST AGREEMENTS</p> <p>*Small Steering Committee represents community, schools, higher education. *Pilot with Middle Schools. *”Train trainers” capacity-building. *Use what exists to build Clearinghouse. *Partly computer-based Training Retreat. *Integrate Community into all aspects. *Subcommittees with partners as Consultants.</p>
<p align="center">6 GOALS OF STEERING COMMITTEE</p> <p>*Formalize vision & mission statements. *Identify schools for piloting the project. *Integrate community into all aspects. *Plan the Training/Retreat and Curriculum. *Outline the CP Clearinghouse. *Chair & participate on Subcommittees.</p>	<p align="center">4 SUBCOMMITTEES</p> <p>*Steering members Chair & participate *Members: Volunteer Consultant / Partner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Subcommittee Schools Subcommittee Clearinghouse Subcommittee Training/Curriculum Subcommittee

THE VISION

Our vision is of schools, colleges and community organizations collaborating to train teachers, transform curricula and educate students to achieve:

“an awareness and understanding of issues of gender, diversity, equality, ethnocentricity and the relationship to problems of social justice facing contemporary society...and the critical thinking skills to allow one to address these issues in a sensitive and responsible manner...”

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Helen P. Christy, MA, MPA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, FY 2005

Jane M. Anthony

Joanne M. Hill, MPA

EX-OFFICIO

Joyce Dolbec

Shanna Wells, M.Ed.

Purpose/Description

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to recommend fiscal administration guidelines and oversee financial procedures for the Rhode Island Commission on Women. Committee members review the annual budget requests of Committees and the Commission, annual and quarterly budget reports and expenditures to insure they are made in accordance with the budget implementation guidelines set forth by the Commission and in accordance with State accounting, purchasing and budgetary procedures.

Accomplishments during FY 2005

1. Reviewed and/or collaborated in the preparation of, and provided recommendations on the following:
 - Annual budget request for the RI Commission on Women;
 - Expenditure requests from all committees;
 - Quarterly and monthly fiscal reports of expenditures;
 - Annual financial integrity report of the RI Commission on Women;
2. Monitored fiscal matters of the RICW, reporting quarterly to the Executive Committee and Director.

Reports from Ad Hoc Committees

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RHODE ISLAND WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

CHAIR

Linda Newton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, FY 2005

Jane M. Anthony

Joyce J. Dolbec

Joanne M. Hill

Mary Anne Miller

Kathy Nadeau

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

Camille Vollaro

DIRECTOR

Shanna Wells, M.Ed.

Purpose/Description

Historically, RICW initiated and has regularly presented the *RI Woman of the Year Award*. The event is an important way for RICW to recognize the work of positive female role models who have made significant contributions to women in this state. Awards traditionally are presented at a dinner event for which tickets are sold. Proceeds from ticket sales cover the costs of the event, as well as grant awards to programs facilitating the purposes of RICW in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-119-7.

Past honorees include women from all walks of life – Supreme Court Justice, educators, community leaders, public servants, and law enforcement. The event provides not only an opportunity to recognize the contributions of these women, it also provides young people with female role models, raises awareness of important societal issues related to women, and provides funding for grants to programs and projects promoting Rhode Island women.

Accomplishments during FY 2005

In 2005, the RICW assigned responsibility for the Woman of the Year Award and recognition dinner to the Community Outreach Committee. Since 1989, the RICW has presented the Woman of the Year Award to highlight and acknowledge women who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life for women in our state.

Letters were sent to social service agencies, private corporations, educational and civil rights organizations, current and past RICW commissioners, committee members, and others soliciting nominations. Seventeen nominations were received and evaluated based on predetermined criteria.

The 2005 awardees were Cheryl Watkins Snead of North Providence, President and CEO of Banneker Industries in Lincoln, RI and the first African American woman to earn a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Massachusetts; and, Susan D. Wallace of Newport, founder of Caritas House, the first residential substance abuse treatment program for teenage girls in the United States.

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The RICW represented by Linda Newton, and the Woman of the Year awardees were promoted through several local media outlets including interviews on *Amazing Women*, *Minority Monitor* and *Vital Women*.

Awards were presented at a dinner on October 6, 2005. Over 100 people attended the event which was hosted by Pamela Watts of WPRI-12 including Governor and Mrs. Carcieri, Lt. Governor Fogarty, Secretary of State Matt Brown, and Representative Trillo. Ticket sales covered the costs of the event and \$11,000 in sponsorship donations were raised to support the Freda Goldman Education Fund which provides financial assistance to women in need who are continuing their education.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE RICW/FREDA H. GOLDMAN EDUCATION AWARD

CHAIRS

Sarah H. Rockett, M.A.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 2005 AWARD

Carol Gibbons

Lela Morgan

Rena Reis

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

Shanna Wells

Cynthia G. Wilson

Purpose/Description

This committee serves in an advisory capacity for the RICW to the Rhode Island Foundation. The Rhode Island Commission on Women/Freda H. Goldman Education Awards Fund, through the Rhode Island Foundation, provides annual awards to women who need financial assistance in order to pursue an education or job training beyond high school. The awards are given for transportation, child care, tutoring, educational materials or other support services (not including tuition) that may be necessary to help women complete their educational goals. Each award is typically \$300 to \$500.

Accomplishments during FY 2005

1. The Committee evaluated numerous applications for the awards, to select the honorees.
2. RICW funds were able to provide \$1,175 in awards. The Rhode Island Foundation matched this amount with an additional \$825, allowing 3 awardees to be selected by the Committee.
3. Awards were given to the three women named below. A brief biography of each woman is contained in the attached event program.
 - **Leslie A. McCalla**, a single mother of two, who works full time while maintaining a GPA of 3.0. \$650 award.
 - **Sandra J. Berard**, a domestic violence survivor, cancer survivor and single mother of five boys who is studying to become a teacher. \$650 award.
 - **Scholastique Uwiragiye**, a refugee from Rwanda, single mother of one son and former medical assistant in Zambia during the Rwandan Civil War, is studying to become a registered nurse. \$650 award.

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Rhode Island Commission on Women is charged with the responsibility to collaborate with other organizations, groups, and state departments on issues of common concern and to advocate for women's equity in all areas of life. RICW Commissioners or the Director, Project Management and Administration, are appointed to serve as liaisons between the Commission and outside boards and commissions in the public, private and not-for profit sectors.

List of appointments to various boards and commissions, FY 2005

- Attorney General's Domestic Violence Task Force – *Jane M. Anthony*
- Center for Women and Enterprise Advisory Board – *Shanna Wells*
- Civil Rights Roundtable – *Joyce J. Dolbec, MA, Shanna Wells*
- Dept. of Corrections Advisory Board on Female Offenders – *Jane M. Anthony, Shanna Wells*
- Dept of Health, Office of Women's Health Advisory Board – *Jane M. Anthony, Shanna Wells*
- Legislative Child Care Commission – *Shanna Wells*
- RI Coalition for Affirmative Action – *Shanna Wells*

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3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Draft, February 28, 2003

GOAL 1: To evaluate, assess and respond to the societal factors that impact women.

1. Regular Commission reviews of progress on the strategic plan.
2. Collaborate with other organizations to gain feedback on issues affecting women.
3. Modify the strategic plan based on evaluation of the Commission's environment and resources.

GOAL 2: Promote full participation for all RI women in the political process (or civic leadership)

1. Encourage and empower women to become candidates for office at all levels.
2. Collaborate with other organizations (e.g., League of Women Voters, others)
3. Advocate for training and education for women about civil leadership.
4. Provide educational opportunities (forums, seminars) for women interested in elective office.
5. Acknowledge female elected officials, through a reception or other event.
6. Create a mentoring program for legislators to mentor women interested in elective office.
7. Become a clearinghouse for women interested in elective office and/or appointment to boards and commissions.
8. Create databanks of:
 - Potential mentors who are or have been in elective office
 - Young college-aged women interested in political or public sector career
 - Women actively involved who may be interested in elective office and/or serving on boards and commissions.

GOAL 3: Promote opportunities for all RI women to achieve equity in the areas of Health, Education, Economics, Affordable Housing and Employment.

1. Increase RICW's collaboration with other organizations on economic issues such as affordable housing and employment.
 - Identify organizations with which to work
 - Develop strategies in concert with these organizations.
2. Develop a structure within RICW to address economics, housing and employment issues.
3. Advance the activities of RICW's existing committees and projects.
 - Education Committee: Cultural Pluralism Education Partnership
 - Health Committee: Health Position Paper Series
 - Breast Health Awareness Initiative: Outreach Education in Public Libraries.
 - Legislative and Legal Rights Committee: Legal Rights Handbook updating.
 - Education Awards Advisory: Awards to low-income women for education support.
 - Community Outreach Committee: Woman of the Year Award; other outreach events.

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GOAL 4: Influence public policy to achieve full equity for women.

1. Build coalitions with organizations with similar interests and concerns.
2. Sponsor public policy forums in the community.
3. Disseminate RICW position papers and other products (using a “theme of the month” approach for health position papers).
4. Enhance and increase RICW’s level of impact in the legislative process.
 - Advise and submit recommendations to elected officials.
 - Form collaborative networks to develop and promote and educate about legislation.
 - Monitor, propose and advocate for legislation consistent with mission.

NOTE: *It was suggested “protect women from all forms of discrimination” should be part of the RICW Mission Statement, but it was also noted this is already implied by the current Mission Statement.*